

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2003

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader:

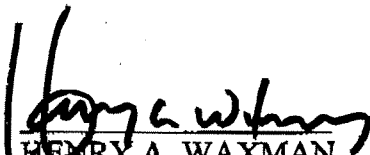
We are writing to share our thoughts about the controversy involving our colleague, Representative Jim Moran. Since he is a friend of many of us personally, this is a difficult letter for us to send. But we feel compelled to do so.

One of the enduring strengths of the House Democratic Caucus is its willingness to embrace and foster a wide diversity of views. By encouraging many perspectives and voices, we benefit from the insights that come from intellectual challenges and fresh approaches. Inherent in this approach is an understanding that for open debates to flourish, there must be a high tolerance for new ideas. The threshold for unacceptable conduct, therefore, is high.


Unfortunately, Jim's statements and judgment cross this threshold. They are not merely wrong, offensive, and ignorant. They are grossly irresponsible, and were given at a sensitive time when inflammatory comments—regardless of outrageous factual flaws—can unleash unintended and dangerous consequences. Under any interpretation, they violate the basic standards we hold ourselves to as Democrats.


We hope that as Jim reflects on his actions, he will decide not to seek reelection to the House of Representatives. Should he seek reelection in 2004, however, we cannot and will not support his candidacy.


Sincerely,

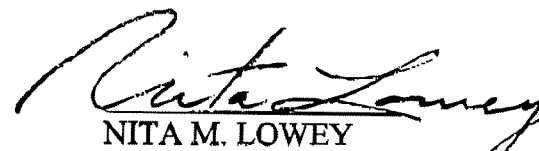
  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

  
MARTIN FROST  
Member of Congress

  
TOM LANTOS  
Member of Congress

  
SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress

  
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
Member of Congress

  
NITA M. LOWEY  
Member of Congress